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Iran frees American held as spy

BERN, Switzerland — An American citizen held for 2½ years in an Iranian prison on charges of spying was released and turned over to the Swiss Embassy in Tehran, Swiss authorities said yesterday.

A spokesman at the Foreign Affairs Ministry said Zia Nassry, an American of Afghan origin, was handed over to the Swiss Saturday and is expected to leave the country in about three weeks when administrative formalities have been completed.